



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, January 17, 2013, 7:00 pm
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

Attending:

Carrie Albright (Chair), Chaim Julian, Dianne May, Mike Litwin (Vice Chair), Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Deborah Myerson, Sean Gorman, Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow), Carissa Moncavage, and Kriste Lindberg

Absent:

Diane Jung and Andy Williams

I. Introductions (5 min)

(Time mark 7:04 pm)

II. Announcements (5 min)

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, February 21st, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: Jan. 23rd, Feb. 7th, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
- C. Next Tree Commission meeting: February 20th, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
- D. Next BCOS meeting: Feb. 12th, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. Meeting: Feb. 13th, 5:30 pm, Courthouse (2nd Wed of the month)

III. Approval of November & December Minutes (5 min)

- A. Whitney motions for the approval of November and December minutes. Moncavage seconds. Lindberg, Litwin and Gorman abstain from voting. The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Public Comment (5 min)

(Time mark 7:06 pm)

V. Committee reports & discussions (50 min)

- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)
 - 1. Patterson Park: Corner of 3rd and Patterson Dr.: Had their first meeting with the Plan Commission a couple of months ago and this will be their second hearing.
 - i. They have now included a riparian buffer when they were not previously. They are accommodating all three zones, 75 feet, of the riparian buffer.
 - ii. Also including green building features in their plan.
 - a. Most of the other issues are not environmentally related.

2. Downtown, Corner of 6th and Washington St.: A one story, flat top building located between two and three story buildings. They want to add a second floor to the building.
 - i. The second floor would have two, four bedroom apartments.
 - ii. The ECPC has recommended to request a green roof and other green building features they can add.
 - iii. Thompson emailed their consultant, who is LEED certified, asking about the green roof and green building features but has not received any details yet.
3. Cambria Suites, located on North Walnut, where Great Wall restaurant is. They had petitioned for a high end hotel.
 - i. They now have to change entire plan based on fire truck accessibility.
 - ii. Thompson says we will ask for green building and a few minor adjustments to their landscape plan.
4. Summer House Inn, East 3rd Street: Planning on tearing down and building a new three story facility.
 - i. It will be exclusively a motel on the first floor. The second and third floors will be furnished apartments leased on a 9 month basis for students. During the summer months the second and third floor apartments will be rented as motel rooms.
 - ii. They want to do the site plan in two phases. The front of the current site building will be torn down first, then the back.
 - iii. The ECPC has said they need to change some of their landscape plan because they had red maples as street trees.
 - iv. Their plan also has several bio filtration basins, which will act as sediment basins during construction, and then become detention basins once construction is over.
 - a. In the past some developers have not planted the detention basins with their native plants, so this is something that needs to be monitored and done in the near future.

B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste, Emily) (Time mark 7:27 pm)

1. Jung not present.
2. Kasnak has not yet attended the indoor farmers market to table for L4L, but hopes to for February and March.
 - i. Planning for activities at the February and March market.
 - ii. Also working to attain grants to make production of more L4L signs.
 - a. Kasnak is still having difficulty reaching a member of the Sassafrass Audubon Society.
 - b. The Center for Sustainable Living has said they are interested in donating money if possible and hope to do so in the spring.
 - c. Kasnak says it may be worth having a conversation on what other avenues could be pursued to attain money for the production of more signs.
 - i. Whitney asks how much each sign costs to produce; Thompson believes they cost just under \$8 a piece.
 - ii. Thompson says a batch of 50 signs cost \$375 to produce.

C. BEQI Committee (10 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne) (Time mark 7:34 pm)

1. Piepenburg is working on the transportation section of the report.
 - i. The first part of the section to be addressed was "Transportation Basics" which hasn't been updated since 2000. It is now pretty much updated and finished.
 - a. The next section is vehicle miles traveled. Hathaway completed before she left.
 - b. The commute to work section Piepenburg began working on today and suggests combining this section with the bike to work section.

- c. The public bus ridership section is now complete with updated figures.
- d. Hathaway also completed the last section before leaving which is gas saving tips.
- e. Piepenburg will be sending out a draft in the upcoming weeks.

D. Eco-Heroes Award Committee (10 min: Carrie, Kriste, Emily) (Time mark 7:36 pm)

1. Kasnak sent out all letters for business donations and sponsorships the week of the December meeting.
 - i. Currently have 7 donors and 6 sponsors for a total of \$575 in sponsorships alone. Businesses have until January 31st to commit to a donation or sponsorship.
 - ii. Also sent letters to private schools notifying them of competition and event.
 - iii. Kasnak has been trying to reach the homeschool network and asks that if anyone has a connection to this group to let her know.
2. Kasnak has produced and brought a number of different thank you certificate possibilities and a logo design for the competition and event.
 - i. Commissioners comment on certificate and logo and what they would like to see changed.
3. Albright has talked to the Mayor about sponsoring supplies to Fairview Elementary School.
 - i. He has agreed to do so and would like the EC to decide which supplies would be useful, which local store to buy from, the total price of supplies, etc.
 - ii. Meyerson offered to reach out to Fairview Elementary's art teacher to discuss what supplies would be most useful.

E. Martin Luther King Day Activities (10 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. This is the sixth time we have received a grant to make an MLK day activity possible. This year the committee partnered with The Center for Sustainable Living to host a community event focused around the creation of a mandala.
 - i. Sara Steffey McQueen is a teacher helping to coordinate the event.
2. The event will be held in City Hall Atrium with two different sessions, 1-2 pm and 3-4 pm.
3. The committee created a PSA which started airing Monday on WFHB.

VI. Old business (10 min)

(Time mark 7:56 pm)

A. EAB follow-up (10 min: Mike)

1. A contaminants biologist has written a letter to the City expressing concern about the use of insecticides to treat the trees.
 - i. This concern is based on the systemic nature of the insecticide and how it could potentially get into the food chain.
2. The supervisor of the same office as the contaminants biologist, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote a letter to the editor expressing similar concerns.
3. Litwin says the EC needs to decide whether to take any action, such as writing a letter, or not.
 - i. Discussion continues about the possible actions that the EC could take.
4. Litwin notes that other cities have addressed this problem in similar ways and how it may be useful to research other cities and their outcomes with the treatment.
 - i. Discussion continues on the details of different insecticides.
5. Thompson says that one Neighborhood Association has already hired a professional group to treat EAB and she fears homeowners who can go to any hardware store and buy products that are not injected but instead applied to the soil, which are also systemic but impact anything else that is growing near the tree and can be harmful to pollinators.
 - i. Tree-age, the insecticide that may be used to treat EAB, may not be as harmful as the products applied to the soil due to the fact that not many pollinators visit Ash trees and that it only kills the larvae.

6. Litwin states that perhaps at a minimum the EC should recommend that the City coordinate a public education campaign.
 - i. Whitney asks whose responsibility it is to initiate a public education campaign; Litwin believes it is the tree commission.
7. Discussion again continues on what role the EC should assume in addressing this issue and how to make the public education project or campaign possible.
 - i. Commissioners are torn on the topic of whether to treat the trees or remove them but all agree that public education is a necessity and that the EC can play some role, such as connecting resources.
8. It is decided that Albright will draft a letter on the EC's position to then send around to all Commissioners. Thompson will contact Lee Huss to determine when the EC letter should be sent.

VII. New business (40 min)

(Time mark 8:35 pm)

A. 2013 Project Discussion (30 min: Carrie, all)

1. Thompson suggests doing something on Arbor Day or during National Wildlife week in relation to EAB education this year.
 - i. Albright asks what exactly Thompson envisions or means by education, such as tabling; Thompson responds that it depends on if we can find an event to table at.
 - a. Thompson says the EC could also choose to make a committee in relation to this issue to begin work in the spring.
2. Albright encourages the commissioners to consider ideas for ordinances to enact within the City, as it's done in the past. She suggested it may be worthwhile to have interested commissioners form a group to narrow down ideas.
 - i. She applauds the focus on community outreach oriented events and initiatives, and encourages commissioners to consider a more direct effort, such as a city-wide ordinance for the coming years.
 - a. In order to go forward with any ordinance, the commission would require support from the City Council. It is believed that the EC has a great deal of support and that this should not be a deterrent in beginning this process.
3. Albright goes through list of committees and vacancies.
 - i. Lindberg should be listed on the Natural Landscaping/L4L committee.
 - ii. Moncavage is not a member of the Eco-Heroes Committee but is on the recycling and waste reduction committee.
 - iii. Thompson says the Imagine Bloomington committee is a high priority due to the revision of the Growth Policies Plan.
 - a. She also asks about the status of Switchyard Park; Litwin has not received any news on the topic recently but will look into it.
 - b. Thompson also notes that I-69 may be a priority towards the end of the year; Albright will contact Josh Desmond in the Planning Department to find out more about this issue and how the EC may be involved.
 - iv. Whitney volunteers to be the representative for the Tree Commission.
 - a. MPO Citizens Advisory Committee: Depending on meeting time, Julian may act as representative.
 - b. BCOS: Moncavage interested in acting as representative.
 - c. Monroe County Environmental Commission: Albright will attend the upcoming meeting. Whitney may also be interested depending on her availability. The location of these meetings will be changing soon.
 - d. Imagine Bloomington: Myerson and May volunteer to join.
 - e. ECPC: Litwin, May, Julian, Williams and Thompson will continue.
 - f. ERAC: Litwin will continue.
 - g. BEQI: Moncavage and Albright will continue.
 - h. Natural Landscaping/L4L: Jung and Lindberg will continue. May joins.

- i. Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee: Moncavage, Albright and Williams will continue.
- j. Eco-Heroes Award Committee: Lindberg and Albright will continue. Gorman joins.

B. Election of officers (10 min: Carrie, Mike, Chaim) (Time mark 9:10 pm)

- 1. Albright says that the position of Staff Coordinator, who is a person who acts as a contact for interns, used to be an elected position. Now that interns are assigned to committees and talk to Commissioners on said committees there is no need for this position.
 - i. Albright moves to vote that the staff coordinator position remain divided up. Julian seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
- 2. Julian nominated Albright for Chair at the December meeting. Gorman moves to vote Albright as Chair. Litwin seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
- 3. The Steering Committee has nominated Moncavage as Vice-Chair. Albright moves to vote Moncavage as Vice-Chair. Julian seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
- 4. Whitney nominates and moves to vote Julian as Secretary/Treasurer. Litwin seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements (10 min) (Time mark 9:16 pm)

- A. Albright is looking forward to MLK day activities.
- B. Thompson explains that Michael Edwards was appointed mistakenly and cannot be a Commissioner due to the fact that he lives outside of city limits. Therefore one spot remains to be filled on the EC.
- C. Lindberg represented the American Red Cross as Operations Coordinator in Community Partnerships during Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts in New York City.
- D. Litwin says that City Council was presented with the Vision Statement for the Growth Policies Plan. He says the Council passed several amendments, but he is unsure if they passed the whole thing.
 - 1. He is pleased to report that they did amend the transportation part of the vision statement to include an emphasis on alternative forms of transportation.

IX. Adjournment (Time mark 9:23 pm)

- A. Gorman moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Litwin seconds. The motion